MARVEL

27

LGY#192

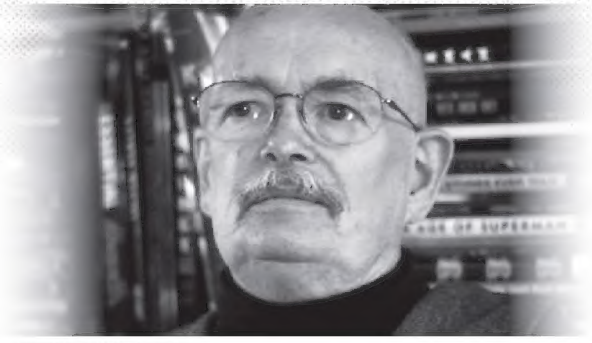
CATES
GEDEON
ABURTOV

VENOM

BEYOND

PART 2

DENNY O'NEIL



COURTESY OF THE HERO INITIATIVE

1939–2020

Marvel Comics pauses to pay tribute to writer and editor Denny O'Neil, a true giant of the industry. Over his decades-long career, he set a tone of realism and relevancy in his storytelling that endures to this day.

Growing up in St. Louis, Missouri, O'Neil first cut his writing teeth as a newspaper journalist and columnist. Thanks to encouragement from fellow Missourian Roy Thomas, O'Neil earned a place at Marvel and would end up scripting titles such as *Strange Tales* and *X-Men*. In 1968, he began editing and writing for DC Comics, most notably *Green Lantern/Green Arrow*. In a seminal arc that left a profound impact in the comics industry, O'Neil and Neal Adams tackled the taboo subject of drug addiction among the youth with the discovery that Green Arrow's ward Speedy was abusing heroin.

After more than a decade, O'Neil returned to Marvel in 1980 as both writer and editor, jumping into *Amazing Spider-Man*, having memorable runs on *Iron Man* and *Daredevil* and forming new creative relationships with the likes of Frank Miller and John Romita Jr. During these trailblazing years, O'Neil mentored Frank Miller on *Daredevil* and Bill Sienkiewicz on *Moon Knight*.

In 1986, O'Neil rejoined DC Comics and stayed with the company for several more years, working with old friends and new collaborators. He continued to write comics for the rest of his life, revisiting familiar characters and concepts, but always looking for ways to shepherd them into new landscapes and allow them to grow while still respecting their history.

O'Neil impressed writers, artists and readers with his devotion to the craft of comics, his belief in the characters and his passionate drive to create stories that mattered. In addition to comics and graphic novels, he also wrote prose novels, nonfiction works, screenplays and reviews.

Denny O'Neil was a singular talent and a man of principles and strong convictions, all of which can be seen in every word he ever wrote. The industry will forever remember him, and he will be sorely missed.

DENNY O'NEIL MADE HIS MARK AT MARVEL WRITING CHARACTER-DEFINING COMICS, LIKE THOSE SEEN ABOVE, BUT MAY HAVE BEEN EVEN MORE IMPORTANT AS AN EDITOR, AS SHOWN BY A FEW OF THE WORKS HE SHEPHERDED, BELOW.

DISGRACED REPORTER EDDIE BROCK STUMBLED UPON AN AGGRESSIVE ALIEN ORGANISM CALLED A SYMBIOTE DURING ONE OF THE LOWEST POINTS OF HIS LIFE. THE TWO WERE JOINED AND USED THEIR COMBINED LUST FOR VIOLENCE TO MAKE THEIR CITY SAFER AS THE LETHAL PROTECTOR...

VENOM

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VENOM BEYOND PART 2

DYLAN BROCK, EDDIE'S SON, HAS ABILITIES RELATED TO SYMBIOTES. IN AN ATTEMPT TO UNDERSTAND HIS POWERS, EDDIE TAKES DYLAN TO SEE THE MAKER—AN EVIL VERSION OF REED RICHARDS FROM EARTH-1610.

BUT BEFORE THE EXAMINATION OF DYLAN COULD BEGIN, THE VILLAINOUS VIRUS BLASTED INTO THE LAB. THIS CAUSED THE MAKER'S DIMENSIONAL GATE TO ACTIVATE, DRAWING DYLAN, EDDIE, THE MAKER AND VIRUS THROUGH THE PORTAL TO UNKNOWN LOCATIONS!

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MY OTHER HAS SENSES THAT I'M JUST NOW BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND.

IT CAN DETECT CHANGES IN WEATHER MONTHS IN ADVANCE, PREDICT EARTHQUAKES. FEEL THE PRESENCE OF DANGER FROM MILES AWAY...

IT CAN TELL WHEN YOU'RE LYING. IT CAN SEE IN THE DARK.

BREATHE UNDERWATER. IT'S AUDIBLE IN SPACE. IT CAN HEAL MOST WOUNDS.

IT CAN ALLOW YOU TO CONTROL YOUR OWN DREAMS WHILE YOU'RE SLEEPING.

I IMAGINE I'M JUST SCRATCHING THE LIMITS OF ITS ABILITIES TOO.

AND YET, HERE...IN THIS INSANE PLACE...

...WHEN I ASK IT WHERE WE ARE...

...ALL IT SAYS IS:

NO @#$%& CLUE, EDDIE.

SINCE WHEN DO YOU CUSS?

ALWAYS KNOWN THE WORDS, EDDIE.

JUST NEVER FELT THE NEED TO USE THEM...

YEAH... WELL...

NO @#$%.

DAD... WHERE *ARE* WE? WHAT'S GOING ON?

COME HERE, DYLAN...

I... I DON'T KNOW, SON. MY MEMORY IS A LITTLE FOGGY. I... WHAT DO *YOU* REMEMBER?

WE...WENT TO SEE THE MAKER... HE HAD THE MACHINE AND THEN...THERE WAS A FIGHT?

YEAH. YEAH, RIGHT. A FIGHT WITH--

VIRUS.

WHAT DID YOU DO TO ME?!

FWOOSH

DYLAN, MOVE!

DAD, NO! WAIT!

WE'LL FINISH THIS.

WHOOSH

DAD!!!

AGH!

WHAM

UGH! FELT THAT.

YES. VIBRATIONAL GAUNTLETS. WE NEED TO END THIS FAST, EDDIE...

YEAH...

...I'M ON IT.

AAAA

YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW LUCKY YOU ARE, VIRUS!

I TRY TO MAKE IT A RULE TO NOT KILL PEOPLE IN FRONT OF MY KID...

KRUNCH

KRAK

...BUT HE'S NOT HERE!

SO GUESS WHAT, @##$%%@? I'M GONNA RIP THAT IDIOTIC ARMOR OFF, THEN THIS TIME I *REALLY AM* GOING TO EAT YOUR--

FWOSSSHH

OH YEAH?

AGHH!!!

WELL, LUCKY FOR ME...

I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN THAT POOR LITTLE DYLAN IS ALL ALONE EITHER...

BOOM

CAN'T HELP BUT NOTICE WE HAVEN'T STOPPED FALLING...

SOME WINGS WOULD BE KINDA HELPFUL RIGHT--

KEEP DOING IT! KEEP SAYING MY SON'S NAME!

THWIP

BECAUSE EVERY TIME YOU DO, IT ADDS AN HOUR OF PAIN BEFORE YOU DIE!

WELL, FIGURE IT OUT! *DO SOMETHING!* ALL I HAVE ARE WEBS, AND AGAINST THIS GUY, I DON'T--

BAM

SORRY, EDDIE. IT'S...HARD...HARD TO THINK IN THIS PLACE.

TRYING! TOO MUCH... INTERFERENCE!

SPLAT

INTERFERENCE? WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

NEVER BEEN THIS CLOSE TO A HIVE MIND BEFORE...

YOU--YOU DON'T GET IT!!!

TRYING...TO CONNECT...BUT IS DIFFICULT TO BREAK THROUGH... AND KEEP OUR PRESENCE... SECRET...ALMOST... THERE...BREAKING THROUGH... I CAN--

KRAK

THOOM

WE DON'T CARE!

YOU HAVE NO IDEA THE PAIN YOU HAVE CAUSED ME.

WELL. LET'S KEEP ADDING, SHALL WE?!

AGGHH!!!

AGHHHH!!!

SPLAT

YOU OKAY? WHAT'S--

YES. YES, OKAY. BUT... LEARNING...

LEARNING? FROM WHAT? WHAT ARE YOU--

FWOM

FWOM

NEW HIVE! THINGS... UNLOCKING. WE ARE CAPABLE OF SO MUCH!

IT'S... BEAUTIFUL...

HIVE? WHAT? CAPABLE OF WHAT?

AGH!!!

BASH

UGH!

THIS IS OVER! JUST GIVE UP AND--

WAM

KTHOOM

HELLO? HEY, WHERE DID YOU GO? I KINDA NEED SOME HELP RIGHT--

HEY!!! WHERE ARE YOU?!

THIS ONLY ENDS ONE WAY, BROCK!

K-CHACK

THOOM
THOOM
THOOM

AGH!!!

I AM HERE, EDDIE!

THWP

I WAS LOST. LEARNING...

GOOD FOR YOU. ANYTHING WE CAN USE TO PUT THIS IDIOT DOWN FOR GOOD?

YES.

HAHA, YOU HAD ENOUGH? GONNA RUN?!

BUT YOU MUST LISTEN TO ME. GIVE ME CONTROL.

YOU DON'T GET TO RUN!

WOOSSHHH

YOU CAN'T OUTRUN DEATH!

KZZARSH

BOOM

EDDIE...

PLEASE...

I CAN'T LOSE HIM...CAN'T LOSE YOU--

EDDIE. GET UP.

EDDIE, LISTEN TO ME--

ALL OF THE ENERGY HE SHOT YOU WITH? ALL OF HIS "FURY"?

HOW DOES IT FEEL, BROCK?

AGHHH!

WHAT'S HAPPENING?! IT HURTS! FEELS LIKE WE'RE GOING TO EXP--

WE CAN USE THAT ENERGY. STORE IT.

AND REDIRECT IT.

WHAT? USE IT HOW?!

...TO BE WEAK? TO BE POWERLESS?

AGGHHH!!!

SWAT

LIKE THIS, EDDIE.

IT HURTS LIKE HELL...

KRUMB

BUT THIS?

THIS FEELS AMAZING.

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DAD! HELP!

DYLAN...

THWIP

THWIP

WAIT...HOW DID I HEAR THAT? HE MUST BE FIFTY STORIES UP!

YOU DIDN'T HEAR IT. *NOT* REALLY.

YOU *FELT* IT. WE BOTH DID.

FRSH

FRSH

I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT'S HAPPENING. THIS PLACE...IT'S...

DON'T UNDERSTAND IT EITHER, EDDIE. STILL A JUMBLE IN OUR HEAD...TOO MUCH TO SIFT THROUGH...

HAVE NOT BEEN THIS CLOSE TO A HIVE MIND SINCE BORN.

A HIVE MIND HERE? WHAT IS GOING ON?!

TIME FOR THAT LATER.

RIGHT. GAME FACE.

DYLAN!

SIR. WE'RE GOING TO NEED YOU TO STEP OUT OF YOUR SYMBIOTE AND PUT YOUR HANDS BEHIND YOUR HEAD.

D-DAD?

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OKAY, JUST...JUST HOLD ON.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS IS...

...BUT THIS IS ME, GUYS. YOU KNOW ME.

CAP...STEVE, WHAT ARE YOU DOING--

SIR, I HAVE NO IDEA WHO YOU ARE.

NOW, I'M GOING TO ASK YOU AGAIN NICELY.

I NEED YOU TO REMOVE YOUR SYMBIOTE AND PUT YOUR HANDS ON YOUR HEAD. NOW.

DAD...I CAN SENSE THEM. SOMETHING IS WRONG WITH THEM. THEY AREN'T...

SIR! THIS IS YOUR LAST WARNING!

YOU NEED TO GET YOUR HANDS OFF OF MY KID BEFORE--

THAT'S IT! AVENGERS ASSEM--

OH, BLOW IT OUT YOUR--

BOOM

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THIS IDIOT AGAIN...

I TOLD YOU! YOU CAN'T OUTRUN ME, YOU CAN'T BEAT ME! WITH THE TECH I HAVE, IT WOULD TAKE...

...AN ARMY...

...TO STOP ME.

OKAY, BUDDY, THAT'S OUR CUE!

THWUP

MY FIGHT'S NOT WITH **YOU.** I'M NOT EVEN FROM **THIS DIMENSION.**

WELL, I HOPE YOUR WORLD HAD ONE OF ***ME.***

IF IT DID, YOU'D ALREADY KNOW IT'S NOT ***YOUR*** CHOICE WHOSE FIGHT IT IS, SON.

DAMMIT! AGH!

CHOOM CHOOM CHOOM

PANG PANG PANG

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE!!!

THWUP!

DAD, WHAT ARE WE DOING? WE CAN'T JUST LEAVE THEM TO--

WE CAN AND WE ARE...

WE'RE GETTING YOU TO SAFETY. AND WHOEVER THE HELL THOSE VENOM-AVENGERS UP THERE ARE...

"...THEY SEEM LIKE THEY CAN HANDLE THEMSELVES JUST FINE."

DA TA TA TA!

OKAY!!! OKAY...I GIVE UP...JUST...TAKE ME TO THE COPS OR WHATEVER--

CRUNCH

WE DON'T DO COPS HERE, SON. YOU BREAK THE CODE, YOU FACE THE PUNISHMENT BEFORE OUR LEADER, CODEX!

FINE...THEN IF THAT'S HOW IT IS...

I TOLD YOU... MY FIGHT'S NOT WITH YOU...

AGH!!!

WHIRRRRR

BUT YOU KNOW...

...I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO KILL AN AVENGER...

BOOM

STAGGER

STAGGER

NOW...

THAT...

SSSS

WHAT...

WHAT THE @#$% IS...

THAT HURT.

ANTI-SYMBIOTE TECH IS ILLEGAL.

YOU JUST EARNED YOURSELF A TRIP TO THE HIVE.

HEY...

EXIT

...WHERE'D THAT GUY AND HIS KID GO?

DAD, WHAT'S GOING ON? WHERE *ARE* WE?

JUST KEEP MOVING, OKAY?

KID'S GOT *A POINT.* WHAT THE HELL *IS* GOING ON? WHOEVER THE HELL HE IS, VIRUS SAID THIS ISN'T *OUR DIMENSION.* WHERE ARE WE?

DON'T KNOW, EDDIE. NOTHING FEELS FAMILIAR. HARD TO THINK. TOO MANY VOICES.

TRYING TO *HIDE US* FROM THEM.

WELL, THAT'S GREAT. THANKS FOR THE HELP.

ARE YOU TALKING TO THE SYMBIOTE? WHAT'S IT SAYING? CAN I TALK TO IT? MAYBE WE CAN--

NO.

WE JUST HAVE TO FIND SOMEWHERE TO LIE LOW.

THERE HAS TO BE AN EXPLANATION FOR THIS. SOMEONE WE CAN GO TO FOR HELP.

SOMEONE WHO WON'T TRY TO KILL US!

EDDIE! THERE'S SOMEONE--

YEAH, I CAN SEE THAT!

I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE. BUT IF YOU'RE RUNNING FROM *THEM...*

...COME WITH US.

MEANWHILE... THE HIVE.

LET ME GO, DAMMIT! HEY!

WHAT THE HELL IS THIS? WHAT'S GOING ON?!

SILENCE HIM.

KRAK

WAIT, NO-- AGH!

WHO IS THIS MAN?

WHY HAVE YOU BROUGHT HIM TO ME?

HE POSSESSES FORBIDDEN TECHNOLOGY, MY LORD.

HE WEARS ANTI-SYMBIOTE ARMOR.

WE SCANNED HIS PHYSIOLOGY AND IT APPEARS HIS FORM IS HUMAN. BUT IT IS BROKEN. HE REQUIRES THE ARMOR TO LIVE...

WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH HIM?

HMMM. I SEE...

REMOVE HIS HELMET.

I HAVE NO IDEA WHO THIS MAN IS.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND. WHO ARE YOU? WHAT'S GOING ON?

YOU MUST BE **NEW** AROUND HERE... WHERE ARE YOU FROM?

THAT'S...GOING TO BE A LITTLE HARD TO ANSWER.

HOW DO I KNOW I CAN TRUST YOU?

HOW DID YOU FIND US?

YOU'RE HUMAN. WELL, MOSTLY. WE CAN SENSE YOU. IT'S WHAT WE DO.

WE'RE THE ONLY ONES LEFT WHO HAVEN'T BEEN TAKEN OVER BY CODEX AND HIS HIVE.

CODEX? WHO IS THAT? AND WHAT DOES THAT MEAN? THE ONLY ONES LEFT OF WHAT?

HUMANITY.

WH-WHAT? SO YOU'RE, WHAT...THE LEADER OF THE UNDERGROUND OR SOMETHING?

SOMETHING LIKE THAT, SURE.

BUT WE DON'T HAVE LEADERS...

ME?

...I'M JUST AN AGENT.

OH MY GOD... FLASH?

FLASH? WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU SAYING?

FLASH THOMPSON... AREN'T YOU--

FLASH... WAIT, YOU MEAN EUGENE THOMPSON? YOU THINK I'M THE EX-PRESIDENT OF WHAT USED TO BE THE UNITED STATES?

NO, SORRY. MAN, YOU REALLY AREN'T FROM AROUND HERE, ARE YOU?

THEN WHO--

HOW ABOUT I ASK THE QUESTIONS FROM NOW ON?

LET'S START SMALL.

WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?

OKAY. LISTEN... MY NAME IS EDDIE BROCK. THIS IS MY SON. WE--

WAIT...

EDDIE?

DAD?

DAD... WHAT'S GOING ON? WHO IS--

...ANNIE?

TO BE CONTINUED...

THE RETURN OF Eddie's Clubhouse

DANNY KHAZEM
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SEND EMAILS TO **SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM.** (PLEASE MARK "OKAY TO PRINT"!)

Hello in here, out there, around the world and aboard all the ships at sea! Veditor Devin Lewis reporting to you live and in print from Venom HQ, which at this exact moment in time is my home office.

While comics may not have been on sale for a bit, your pals in the offices of Spiders and Symbiotes have been hard at work behind the scenes, doing our level best to keep making as many books as possible to have them ready for you when shops across the country can reopen safely.

But we aren't the only ones who have been hard at work—far, far from it! As a matter of fact, I'm writing this on the first new comic book day since all of this began, and those shop owners and employees are getting back to getting you readers your favorite books each and every month.

BUT NOW IS NO TIME TO GET COMFORTABLE, MARVELITES!

(Metaphorically, I mean. You can and should be comfortable during these trying times!)

MY POINT is that your favorite comic shop may not be out of the woods just yet. We're so excited to be able to send out new books and for you to be able to buy them, but lots of shops will have to deal with some customers not being comfortable enough to venture outside just yet. Or some of those very same shops may need to continue with some limited offerings for the time being.

If you have a pull list, give your shop a call and check in with them about it. Even if you can't pay for it, just letting your shop know will help. And if your shop is participating in curbside pickup or delivery, why not see if they've got that last back issue you've been searching for forever? You may be surprised at what your shop has that you don't even know about! Be sure to check Marvel.com and comicshoplocator.com to find some other ways you can help and what your nearest shop may be.

But we here at Marvel and the folks at your favorite shop weren't the only ones working away—you readers were too, and we've got the letters to prove it!

Let's start with a fairly existential entry from Bo...

I really like VENOM.
What is this email for?

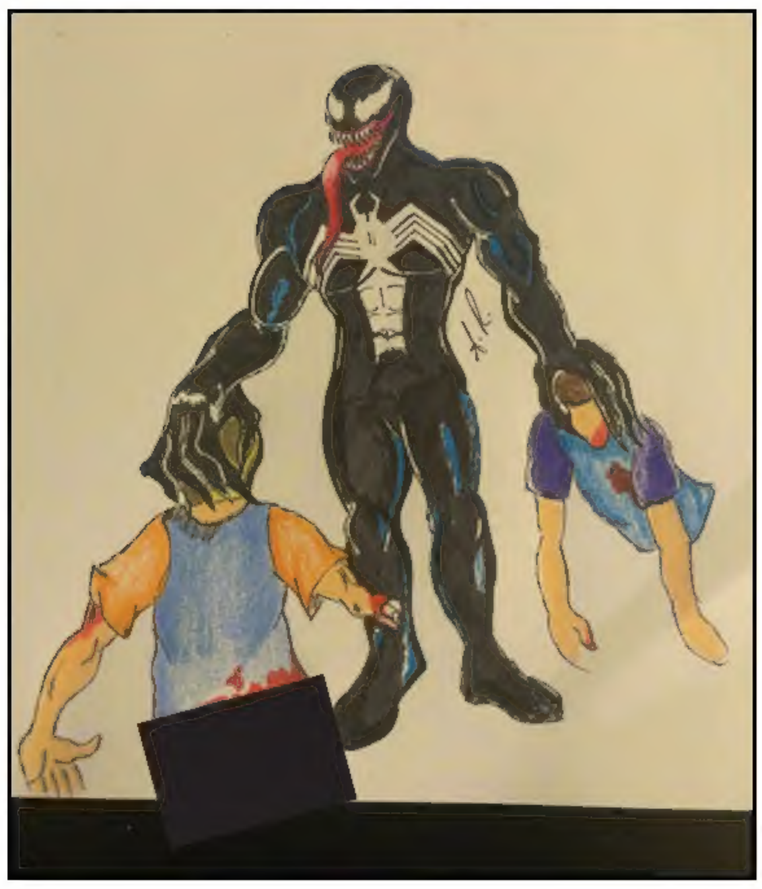
—Bo B.

WHAT IS ANY EMAIL FOR, BO?!

In all seriousness, Bo, thank you for reading, for writing and for liking VENOM.

SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM is for fan mail, fan feedback and, in this next particularly grisly case, fan art!

Entitled simply, "Venom tears it up lol" this piece comes to us from Carlos R. of Queens, NY! (Queens rules!)



Just look at those blue highlights! The claws! The wonderfully realized spider-symbol! What's not to love?

As you can see, we had to censor Carlos' submission as it was too EXTREME for us to let out into the world undoctored, but TRUST ME—if you had seen the original it would haunt your nightmares as it will undoubtedly haunt mine.

Either way, thanks for reading and for sending this fan art along, Carlos!

To the VENOM team,

My name is Maximus. I'm 13, and ever since I was little Venom has been my number one favorite super hero. I think Venom/Eddie Brock is the greatest Marvel character ever and I always read my Venom comics daily.

I think that you guys are doing great with the story arc because it is so brilliant the way it's drawn and how the story itself can be told just in one page of artwork. If you guys could, I would love it if I can make it onto the "Eddie's Clubhouse" page. Thank you.

Yours truly,
Maximus E.

Thank YOU, Maximus, for reading and for writing in! If you like what Donny, Ryan, Iban, Juan and all their collaborators have done so far, I think you'll really like the rest of "Venom Beyond" and what's coming after that!

Dear VENOM team,

I am really enjoying this VENOM run and I think it should keep going until the mysterious Knull, the God of the Symbiotes, is defeated. ABSOLUTE CARNAGE was a spectacular read and I hope VENOM #24 is just a good as all the rest.

—Noah R.

Thanks for your letter, Noah, and I hope you dug VENOM #24...and #25 and #26. (WHEW, that's a lotta VENOM!) LET US KNOW WITH ANOTHER LETTER!

Reader from the UK here and just got done reading #21 and wow, guys. Just WOW. This Venom series is incredible and the best comic series I have read to date. Please keep it up, and well done! Never been so eager for next issues.

—Mo A.

Always great to hear from international readers, Mo! Thanks for reading and for writing—but shouldn't it be spelled VENOUM?

Dear "Venom Island" Team,

Really loving this series and story so far. I've been away from Marvel for a while and as soon as I got back into it I picked up the first two parts of "Venom Island," and words don't describe how amazing and detailed they are. I read both in school and was literally on the edge of my seat wanting more. The surprises are amazing and I really can't wait to see where this series goes. Keep up the good work!

—Chris R.

It is always great to hear from folks who have rediscovered the Marvel Universe, so welcome back, Chris! Really hope you enjoyed the finale of "Venom Island" and have stuck with us through these first couple of chapters of "Venom Beyond." Trust us, you won't want to miss what's coming next!

Speaking of what's coming next, that's all the space we've got for this issue, Venophiles!

Don't miss VENOM #28, and be sure to let us know what you think (and how you're doing!) by writing to SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM. Be sure to mark your notes "Okay to print!"

Stay Sharp (and safe!)
Devin